

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A box-shaped package of a flexible and sealable, ~~especially~~ heat-sealable, packaging material including:

- a front wall (1) and a back wall (2) arranged opposite each another and sealed together along opposed side edges thereof by means of transverse side seams (5, 6);
- two opposed and inwardly folded end walls (3, 4), a first end wall (3) being sealed to the front wall (1) and the back wall (2) along first longitudinal end seams (9) and along first end side seams (11, 12) adjacent a respective side seam (5, 6) and a second end wall (4) being sealed to the front and the back walls (1, 2) along second longitudinal end seams (15, 16) and along second end side seams (17, 18) adjacent a respective side seam (5, 6),

~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the side seams (5) is peelable, ~~that~~ at least portions of the front and the back walls (1, 2) extend beyond the transverse peelable side seam (5) to form a front wall gripping member (19) and a back wall gripping member (20), and ~~that~~ opening means are provided for opening at least a portion of the front wall (1) in longitudinal direction when the peelable sealing seam (5) is peeled.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A package according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a first and a second end side seam (11, 17) adjacent the peelable side seam (5) are peelable at least between the front wall (1) and the first and second end walls (3, 4).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A package according to claim 2, **characterized in that** **wherein** the opening means include peelable end seams (9, 15) between the front wall (1) and the first and second end walls (3, 4).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A package according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, **~~characterized in that~~** **wherein** the opening means include two mutually interspaced incisions or weakening lines in the side edge (23) of the front wall (1) at the peelable side seam (5) or at the peelable end side seams (11, 17).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A package according to claim 4, **~~characterized in that~~** **wherein** the incisions or weakening lines are provided at either of the end seams (11, 17) between the front wall (1) and the first and the second end walls (3, 4), respectively.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A package according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, **~~characterized in that~~** **wherein** the opening means include two mutually interspaced weakening lines (21, 22) in the front wall (1) extending from a side edge (23) thereof and beyond the peelable side seam (5) or the peelable end side seams (11, 17).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A package according to claim 6, **~~characterized in that~~** **wherein** in the longitudinal direction the weakening lines (21, 22) extend over the majority of the front wall (1) and ~~preferably~~ at least over two-thirds of the distance to side seam (6) opposite the peelable side seam (5).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A package according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, **~~characterized in that~~** **wherein** the weakening lines (21, 22) are provided at either of the end seams (9, 15) between the front wall (1) and the first and the second end walls (3, 4) and extend substantially parallel to the respective end seam (9, 15).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A package according to claim 6 ~~or 7, characterized in that~~ wherein the weakening lines (25, 26) are arranged symmetrically about a longitudinal ~~centre~~ center line of the front wall (1) and extend mutually diverging from the front wall gripping member (19) towards the end seams (9, 15) and then parallel thereto.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A package according ~~any of the preceding claims~~ to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the transverse direction the gripping members (19, 20) have an extent less than that of the package and are arranged centrally.